10/20/71

Dear Larry,

The Foreman clips are interesting. After reading them I am even more puzzled with the question I asked you by phone, how does an apparently petty crook afford a Foreman for his defense? And with all the competent locals, some of whom may have a bit of heft with the prosecutor's office, why should a punk reach out to Houston for his attorney?

If you have a friendly contact with anyone in that office, could you express mild idle curiosity to him and ask this question? And whether he knows of any other similar cases where local punks had such eminent defense counsel as Percy the Great? It might lead to some info and perhaps another case or two not in your morgue. Jim has received his set, we have discussed this by phone and will in person. When he is here I will show him what I have obtained from another source and city, where the great one lost a case a law-school grad who had not taken his bars should have won, where the man was obviously innocent and the later volunteer defense got a reversal and an acquittal - and solved the crime by coming up with mob guilties. In that case the present DA had no interest in the proof of guilt, didn't answer repeated letters, etc. So they were a bit less than off-on-a law-and-order kick.

There is separate interest in John Groth, then 21, involved in the robbery that led to a killing. So me that is an uncommon name, although it may be common out there. So, I find myself wondering if he could be related to Danny.

I have a quote from Mr. somewhere saying he charges $250 an hour. Can the guys in these clips pay that kind of money? It seems unlikely, doesn't it? Especially since your good local criminal lawyers undoubtedly don't think of such a fee.

So, among the strange questions I find myself asking without answers is the kinds of sentences his guilty clients get, compared with what they might have gotten from, say accepting a plea, which a good local attorney might have urged. In turn, this leads to wonder about whether someone who might have paid this kind of fee had any interest in the silence of those mostly found guilty, with their mouths closed.

Thanks much,

Harold Weisberg